



JANUARY 2014 NEWSPAPER



Hello Family,

This is Lakesha again, I’ve not written in a while only because I’ve partially been unable to, but now I sit to express myself to my family a bit. I’m still fighting the courts, the prisons, those who are against me... I’ve not stopped and don’t you! It’s gonna get hard and trying and seem impossible at times. So what! More fuel for your fire!

I enjoy the writings of everyone in the Newspaper, and wish to know the outcomes of the stories and struggles. Like our sister Jenni- I prepared a nice legal packet, sent it to the warden for her, and received a reply from the prison administrator. I commend and respect my brothers, sisters, and children who’ve made the choice to open up to the world and be yourself! It’s a scary thing, but a show of liberation, progress, and love. Congratulations to my family, viva liberation, life and love!! Keep growing everyone!

Speaking of growing, I’m fix’n to show my growth in the midst of my fears of doing so. World AIDS Day is December 1. Keep in mind everyone- everyday is world HIV/AIDS day, until we make our government find and give us the cure to the disease, instead of treating symptoms. Feel me? Anyway, I’m HIV Positive, which I’ve stated in other postings to Black & Pink. I have been such since 9/11/2003. Short Story: I met a guy, he and I had a two week affair, I at the age of 18 at the time, he being 43 but told me he was 32. Well, after our two week unprotected, sexual liaison, the last night after sex while having drinks and watching Wheel of Fortune- it was couples night- he looks over at me and in certain manner told me he has HIV. I snapped! I blacked out! I was mind blown! I was emotionally torn! I killed him, and later it was confirmed I was HIV positive, and I have been since. Over the years I’ve expressed my brief story to many of the persons I felt comfortable with and many have said they probably would have reacted the same way. Now I’m serving a ridiculous 60 years.

But I chose to come out like this about my HIV status because I’m growing, and I need the extra room for survival and growth, and I’m hoping others can learn a little from my shared story! I was scared to speak about my having HIV or how I got it because as with all people, we fear being shunned which is worse for us LGBTQ family members! But please, find someone to talk to so that you can release yourself. You don’t have to tell everyone your business, but don’t be afraid to tell someone, even with fear or reserve you can be open without losing your self worth, your confidence, or your sexiness. You, we, are priceless! And we need to remember that. Look, there are many people that will love you, will be physically, mentally, spiritually, intimately in love with you even with HIV. I have been in my share of relationships with informed spouses. So, know that everything will be ok. I see it like this- I’m of many colors and wonders, HIV is only one of them and that will not stop me from growing, loving, sexing, etc. Feel me? We all can get caught up in the heat of

desire, lust, passion, but be careful and try to stay aware!

Now let me clear something up- if the person I contracted HIV from had told me he was HIV positive before having sex, I would have still got my rocks off with him, but in a different manner. If he would have told me after protected sex, it would have been cool with me, due to his care, but that wasn’t the case, and everyone ain’t like me! What I did was not because he had HIV, but because he didn’t tell me.

Before I contracted the condition, if I would have met a person with the condition and I liked him, I’d still act like I like him and be with him if that’s were our feelings lead us to. I want people to be smart. Get tested for HIV and hepatitis, everything you can, on a regular basis!

I pay respect to the persons who’ve lived and died and fought and still live and fight with either HIV or AIDS, making it easier for women like me to finally say to a vast community like us, that I am HIV positive and I’m still standing! I love you all!

This my brief HIV/World AIDS Day coming out story. I’m a victim of an offense that caused me to contract HIV. I’m a woman of color who identifies as a transgender and of course incarcerated. I’m 29 years young! And regardless of my condition, I’m real to me and love, life and liberty. I’m unconditional love. I’m still standing! Stand with ya girl! I love you all! In our struggles!

Lakesha N., Indiana



Art by Yeniel, Florida

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Dear all LGBTQ,

How is my family doing? Well, myself I am blessed by the best, Amen! Well I want you all to know that I’m doing well, and just getting close to my release to a better place, “my home.” My plans are to just go out and fight for the rights for all LGBTQ family in and outside the walls of prison.

I am from Lousiana, and will be in Shreveport, LA when I get out and will be on the move for the family. See, I am 30 years old and was born HIV+, also told that I would not live to see the age of 13. Well, God says otherwise and I am 30 going on 31, Amen.

See I came out to my family at the age of 11 years old, and love my life as the Happy Gay Queen I am. I have these words for all- “Come out, be strong, live life, and never give up.” As I close this letter I want my family to know I am here for you all and I love you no matter what.

God is on your side and so am I.

In the Struggle,
Your Sister,
Brielle Jell-o, Louisiana

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Statement of Purpose
Black & Pink is an open family of LGBTQ prisoners and “free world” allies who support each other. Our work toward the abolition of the prison industrial complex is rooted in the experience of currently and formerly incarcerated people. We are outraged by the specific violence of the prison industrial complex against LGBTQ people, and respond through advocacy, education, direct service, and organizing.

About this Newspaper
Since 2007, Black & Pink free world volunteers have pulled together a monthly newspaper primarily composed of material written by our family’s incarcerated members. In response to letters we receive, more prisoners receive the newspaper each issue!

This month, the newspaper is being sent to: **4106** prisoners!

Disclaimer:
Please note that the ideas and opinions expressed in the Black & Pink Newspaper are solely those of the authors and artists and do not necessarily reflect the views of Black & Pink. Black & Pink makes no representations as to the accuracy of any statements made in the Newspaper, including but not limited to legal and medical information. Authors and artists bear sole responsibility for their work. Everything published in the Newspaper is also on the internet—it can be seen by anyone with a computer. By sending a letter to “Newspaper Submissions,” you are agreeing to have your piece in the Newspaper and on the internet. For this reason, we only publish First Names and State Location to respect people’s privacy.

Call for Submissions to HOT PINK!

Seeking erotic short stories and poems by Black & Pink incarcerated and free-world family members for a new ‘zine. Please send submissions to our Black & Pink - HOT PINK. This is a voluntary project, and no money will be offered for submissions, but you might get the chance to share your spicy story with many others! To subscribe to receive erotica, write to our new address, Black & Pink - Erotica.

A MESSAGE FROM JASON

Dear friends,
Happy New Year! It is the first month of 2014 and that means we have the opportunity to make big plans for our family this year. 2014 is our ninth year of existence. Black and Pink is no longer of toddler age, rather we are a growing nationally recognized effort. Who and what we are is because of YOU! As we continue to fight for the abolition of the prison industrial complex, I am so grateful for the collective wisdom that comes from our incarcerated family. I am especially thankful to all of you who have filled out feedback forms this year. I am hopeful that this process will strengthen our ability to be accountable to you all in our work moving forward.

As we begin this new year I am thinking about the power of New Years Resolutions. I know that so often these resolutions set us up for failure. I know I am guilty of making resolutions about exercising or eating “better” that I fail at miserably, usually within the first few days of the new year. I am wondering, however, if we can come up with family resolutions about how we function and what our hopes are for this next year. One of the things I know many of you get frustrated about is our response time to your incoming letters. I want to be truly honest with you and acknowledge that we are not at a place to respond to your letters in a timely manner. We have many volunteers, but we have much, much more mail coming in than we have the ability to process. While the free world volunteers can resolve to process more mail more quickly this year, what we also resolve to do is be honest with you about our capacity. As a nearly all volunteer organization, it is a challenge to meet all of the needs of our incarcerated family, but we will continue to do our best and appreciate your loving patience with us.

I have written in the past about the practice of Transformative Justice. This is a justice model created by our friends at Generation Five. According to Generation Five, “Transformative Justice is an approach to respond to and prevent child sexual abuse and other forms of violence that puts transformation and liberation at the heart of the change. It is an approach that looks at the individual and community experiences as well as the social conditions, and looks to integrate both personal and social transformation.” Our current criminal punishment system is based on punitive “justice” and simply locking people up. We at Black and Pink know that the majority of people in prison are incarcerated for things that are illegal, but that cause no harm to other people (drugs, sex work, theft, etc.) I am not suggesting that all of our incarcerated members need to take part in transformative justice processes for the things you all are incarcerated for. Yet, the far majority of us have caused harm to other people or we have stood by as others caused harm and we did nothing. Transformative justice is about all of us looking at how we allow harm to happen and recognize what we need to do in order to alleviate that harm. Transformative justice is about taking a deep look at ourselves and our environment to begin creating changes that are needed for our survival and healing.

There are also members of the Black and Pink family who have caused severe harm to others. There are members of our family who have sexually assaulted people, who have murdered people, who have abused people and we need these members of our family to be honest about their past. Black and Pink is a family that welcomes all incarcerated LGBTQ people, regardless of what someone is convicted of. However, we do expect those who have caused harm to others to do some healing work and soul searching into the roots of what allowed the harm to happen. In 2014 we will be sure to put some more resources in our newspaper to support some of this healing. What does it look like to take responsibility for causing harm? What does it feel like to be honest about our past? How do we become a stronger family when we make a safe space for people to be honest and be held with loving care for change rather than judgment? I invite members to write to us about your truth this year. You may never get to apologize to the person you harmed, but maybe you can begin a process of healing yourself and changing the systems that allowed you to cause harm in the first place. We do this work and this healing together because we know we need to live in a world where we do not simply punish people for causing harm, but rather transform ourselves and our communities. Black and Pink will be a place to do this work because once there were no prisons, that day will come again.

In loving struggle, Jason

ANNOUNCEMENTS Page 2

Hello B&P Family,
We have a strong and growing family, and more and more of our LGBTQ family behind bars wants to join and be part of Black & Pink! The challenge is that the free world group in Boston can’t keep up with the mail coming in. We switched from monthly mailing opening to weekly mail opening events. And we get 100’s of your letters each week, so we have several months of mail that always needs reading. We are talking about ways to be able to read more mail, and we welcome your suggestions! For now, just so you know, it will take several months before we can open your letter.
Keep writing and keep fighting,
B&P Boston Chapter

JENNI UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who wrote a letter to advocate for Jenni! In the May 2013 Newspaper we provided a sample letter to send to prison officials to support Jenni, who has experienced sexual harassment, including inappropriate treatment during strip searches in the prison she is at in California. In response to our campaign, the prison retaliated against Jenni- belittling her during an interview, taking away all privileges, doing a retaliatory cell search, attempting to transfer her to a cell with a homophobic cellmate, “losing” much of her property, and writing false disciplinary reports against her.

Right now, Jenni has “acceptable” housing with a compatible cell mate, though nothing else has been fixed. We received some letters back from the administration, at first saying they would look into things, then saying there was nothing more to be done, other than Jenni going through the grievance process. As Jenni notes, the inmate appeal system really works to prevent inmate access the courts. Despite the prison taking action against her, Jenni is still fighting, pushing through the appeal process that may lead to a lawsuit. We will provide updates and possibly another letter for everyone to send in.

Also, a correction- Jenni was mistakenly quoted in the Newspaper as saying “Down with prisoners!”; that was a typing mistake, of course what Jenni really said was “Down with Prisons!”

BLACK & PINK JOINS THE OUT FOR CHANGE: TRANSMEDIA ORGANIZING PROJECT

The Out for Change: Transmedia Organizing Project (OCTOP) links LGBTQTS allied media makers, organizers, and tech-activists across the United States. OCTOP is conducting a strengths/needs assessment of the media & organizing capacity of the movement, and facilitating skillshares and workshops around transmedia organizing. What is transmedia? Most simply put, transmedia is a way of telling a story or sharing an experience using many different formats or technologies (i.e. video, art, music, writing).

The 2013-2014 project partners are:
INCITE!: a nation-wide network of radical feminists of color working to end violence against women, gender non-conforming, and trans people of color, and our communities. We support each other through direct action, critical dialogue, and grassroots organizing.
Black & Pink: us!
Freedom Inc.: Our mission is to engage low- to no-income communities of color to end violence against women folks, gender non-conforming folks, and young folks, which bring about deep social, political, cultural, and economic change.
Esperanza Peace & Justice Center: The people of Esperanza dream of a world where everyone has civil rights and economic justice, where the environment is cared for, where cultures are honored and communities are safe. The Esperanza advocates for those wounded by domination and inequality — women, people of color, queer people, the working class and poor.
Streetwise & Safe (SAS): a project in New York City that shares the ins & outs, do’s & don’ts, and street politics of police encounters between LGBTQQ youth of color and the police. We also stand for and with LGBTQQ and youth with experience trading sex for survival needs.
GSA Network: Gay-Straight Alliance Network is a national youth leadership organization that connects school-based Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs) to each other and community resources through peer support, leadership development, and training.
Queer Undocumented Immigrant Project (QUIP): a project of United We Dream, QUIP seeks to organize and empower LGBTQ undocumented people, LGBTQ immigrants and allies through grassroots organizing, leadership development, advocacy and engage in alliance building between the LGBTQ and immigrant rights movements in order to fight for the rights and dignity of both communities.

We are excited about this learning opportunity and will keep you updated! Stay tuned for ways to get involved as the project progresses.

Hello My Dear Family,

Black & Pink has become more than just pen & ink to me. Each spirit who writes in to contribute to its consciousness, brings this old Queen new life and meaning. It’s Billy ya’ll from Texas, I pray all is well with each and every one of you. I wish I could given each of my family, right now, a big hug. It’s this way each and every time I read my latest issue of our Newspaper. To hear and be allowed to help with each of your struggles, gives me a sense of belonging and self worth. When I received a Thank You for an article in the May ‘13 issue I had contributed, I cried. I didn’t even know anyone was really listening. I wish I could respond personally to so many of you- please know I hear you and you are in my heart.

It’s time Billy has a say in something he holds so dear. In all honesty, I don’t hold it, it has its hold on me. No one talks of the Texas Solitary Confinement part of the system, which they choose to call Ad Seg, Administrative Segregation.

After spending 11 years in that box, still to this day, that box is with me. Imagine walking in each room you enter and counting everything, including the cracks on the wall. Even though I was in that room the day before, I would count it once again hoping for just one new small crack- why? It gave me the sense of change. I’ve been out now for 6 years. I still go nights without sleep. Those years stole things from my very soul. Now in the crowded day rooms, endless lines for my basic needs- food, medicine, etc. I pray for refuge to be alone. In lines sometimes my anxiety overcomes me and I have to give up my seizure meds, placing me at risk of further harm. I will cry for no damn reason at all. One of the scariest things, I know I’m not crazy, but I can’t get my head out of that cell. It’s gotten so hard lately to even call home, I think they know I’m damaged somehow. When I used to get visits there would be periods of silence because I had forgotten how to even hold a conversation with my family. They don’t visit anymore.

Many, many times I’ve wished so share just these very words with my Black & Pink family but became so violently ill each time, I couldn’t complete it. It’s time everybody quit talking about studying the effects of solitary confinement- it’s time for something, anything, to be done. Most of the time when I try and speak of my time in Ad Seg, when trying to share the darkness I continue to fight my way out of, those who try to help cannot see into that darkness. So, I’m passed along from one mental health professional to the next. I even tried to make myself feel bad about myself as if it was all my fault. I was sentenced to do time, yes, I get that, but not be tortured or abused.

So when I say my Black and Pink family, I mean “family.” You all save me daily, I wish I could show you my past Newspapers. You’d think, this one issue was read by one million people. They are rags, LOL.

I plan to submit an essay on a very controversial subject- “self injury,” but not “self mutilation” or “self inflicted violence.” It will be about release, it will not be about suicide, so please do not mistake any of what I share as glorification or an invitation. It’s just that for some people, tears can no longer even begin to compensate for what they feel. Some deal with it the best way they know how.

I hope some of what I have written may help someone, remembering not everything applies to everyone. I love each and every one who’s part of this beautiful family. Thank you so much for being there for me and allowing me to be these for each one of ya’ll!

Peace,
Billy, Texas

Dear Black & Pink Family,

My name is Timothy, but everyone knows me as Blondie. Me and my Lover were given a copy of the Sept. 2013 Newspaper. I was overwhelmed with emotion by the stories I read. I’ve been in prison in South Carolina for almost 8 years now. It is really sad how gays are treated here. The officers and administration do everything they can to keep partners away from one another. But they just don’t understand or care what we go through emotionally or mentally.

Over a year ago I was in a very abusive relationship. And I felt like that was the best I could do. Then a good friend stepped up and made me realize that I could do better. I took him through hell, but he wouldn’t turn his back on me. That good friend is now my best friend, Lover, and Life Partner. I still have some healing to do, but everyday he gives me unconditional love regardless of what these officers and administrators take us through. He has taught me how to love myself and how to be loved again. I love him, and I thank God daily for him coming into my life and loving me.

Here is my advice: If you are with someone who beats on you or verbally abuses you, they do not love you. And don’t believe that you can’t do better. Because you can and will! There is someone in this world that will love you and treat you right! Keep your heads up, the sky is the limit!

Peace Family,
Blondie, South Carolina

To My Dearest Black & Pink family,

Peace! My name is Clifford, but my tiny family here call me Hippie. I’m doing a life sentence in Texas and have been here for over 20 years. Last night I received my first publication of Black & Pink (the April issue) and this morning, during my free time I read it cover to cover. I have not done that to ANY publication for close to 15 years now! And I just had to write you and tell you how impressed I am with your newsletter, also that I am thrilled to see other LGBTQ brothers and sisters out there (and in here) staying down for our cause.

I am a gay/queen, and realized I was gay at a young age, when I was 12. But, at that time society institutionalized kids who came out, so I stayed in the closet to everyone except the only person I could trust, my Mom. My family being part of a “old school” Jewish society, I was forced to either choose between them or my queer life; I chose them. I was married while I was in the Air Force,

and had 2 wonderful sons whom to this day I cherish dearly. Still, my life was in termoil and it wasn’t until 2009, right after my Dad passed, that I finally came out. Since then I have dedicated much of my time to helping the other “family” I am incarcerated with on my Unit. Needless to say, this has proven to be a real challenge as I am bombarded with ridicule, hate, and resistance from not only the inmates but also from the guards. Still, I strive to bring us even a step closer to equality. And since 2009 I have not been more at peace with myself than ever before in my 59 years of life.

Since my incarceration I have achieved an Applied Associated in Liberal Arts, a Bachelors of Science in Behavioral Science and a Masters in Humanities. I have found, through education (knowledge) comes power! And I want to encourage my family in other places to seek as MUCH education as you possibly can, especially while you are locked-up as it will only help you on the day you will finally be released to freedom. And even if you are like me, not expecting freedom, it will still give you perspectives and focus in your life. Education will allow you to see things as they are, not how the oppressors who keep us want you to see things.

Last year my one and only trusted lifetime friend, my Mom, passed on at the age of 94. While I was grieving on a friends shoulder, he told me that when one door closes, another opens. Barely two months later I was sitting in my cell, when, not just one, but two letters came from people I thought had long been out of my life and forgotten. To my shock, these two friends were coming out to me! Can you imagine the thrill I had when I wrote them back and was able to tell them of MY life as well? I suppose you can ask WHY am I telling you this? Because I want everyone who reads this to KNOW that you are not alone, as Black and Pink says, and that I am your family as well. and most of all to NEVER GIVE UP!!

Never be ashamed of who you are. Have PRIDE in your life, and yourself, and hold your heads up high, look you cagers in their eyes, make them wonder what you’re up to, but for the Love of all of us, do NOT get into any more trouble...Be United and watch out for each other ALWAYS.

Yours always,
Cliff (aka Hippie), Texas

Hello! My name is Steven, but some people know me by St. Louis. I am new to this family, let me start by saying that I am pleased to be a part. Well, I am a 24 year old white gay male who is unfortunately locked up in the Illinois Department of Corrections for the next 10 years. I may think that I am going through a rough time, but I know that there are other brothers and sisters out there in this cruel world.

Doing time in the State of Illinois is hard for bisexual, bicurious, transgender, and gay individuals such as myself. They will put you in a 12 X 8 cell with a homophobe and expect you to get along with your cellmate. Heaven forbid they put you in a cell with another bisexual, transgender, or gay individual because they will automatically assume that ya’ll are having sex. What do they care if we have consensual sex? We have needs just like heterosexuals.

While incarcerated I am trying to pursue my Associates Degree with Lake Land Community College. I am doing good so far, getting good grades on the worksheets and the tests that the teacher hands out. I might as well take advantage of all the schooling that I can get, because police & administration here doesn’t think us gay people deserve the privilege of going to school to better our education. And then, on top of all that, the society doesn’t like the idea of us criminals getting an education to better ourselves. So, schooling in the Illinois prison system will be cutting back courses until there are no more courses to be taken.

I wish that everyone will please take care of themselves and try to help our Brothers and Sisters and who are incarcerated throughout the world. Keep ya’lls heads up and stay strong my Brothers and Sisters.

Love Always,
Steven, aka St. Louis, Illinois

P.S. Go St. Louis Cardinals, winner of the 2013 National League Pennant!

Greetings,

Both Brothers and Sisters, hear me! It’s a story of courage I’m about to tell you. As a young boy, I had the misfortune to really feel hate from others. I can remember this episode as easy as I breathe, I was getting chased home from school, and I probably got caught maybe twice. That day I discovered who I was, I accepted the term that my beacon of life shown on a path that I now embrace with the utmost conviction. After experiencing bullies, and being beaten up, I never gave up me. I held fast to my beliefs and never took them for granted. Knowing that I have this greater being watching over me, with a steady hand on my very soul, allowed me to weather that storm of brutality in its purest form, that it made me the kind of person to hold my head high, to speak my mind, and to never let anyone steal, take, or even borrow you!

My advice: keep focused on what makes you unique, and never let anyone tell you “you’re nothing,” because chances are their lives are in a storm themselves. Be strong and keep being you.

Peace, Love,
Mercedes, California

Dear Family,

I’m RaRa, I’m 23 years old, from New Orleans, Louisiana, housed in a Louisiana State Pen. I’ve been incarcerated since I was 17 years old. I’ve been assaulted sexually since I’ve been in prison due to my youthful look. I continue to fight back and never give up. Well, I just wanted to introduce myself to our family for now. I am a singer & poet. The Newspaper really brightens my day during these dark times. I’ll end here for now until next time be good, keep your head up, let go and let god. If he’s with us, who could be against us?

Love ya guys & gals
RaRa, Louisiana

Dear Black & Pink,

I normally do not feel the urge to respond to the things I read in the Letters to Our Family; however, I was so infuriated after reading the letter in the October issue from Angel in Texas, that I feel I must address it.

I have been fighting with Texas officials since 1999 over the “Grooming Policy” which requires men to keep their hair cut short but allows women to grow theirs long. To now discover that there is a policy requiring female offenders to grow their hair out makes me absolutely homicidal.

What makes me even angrier is that I am unaware of anyone doing anything to stop this discriminatory treatment of transgendered offenders. Are we that insignificant that no one cares what is being done to us?

Who else knows what it’s like, to have your hair cut completely off against your will while you struggle with all your might to not give the people forcing you to suffer this indignity the satisfaction of seeing you cry? I will forever carry a scar on my face from being slammed into a concrete floor by a correctional officer for refusing to cut my hair. The silence I hear from society doing anything about this tells me this doesn’t matter because I’m transgendered and therefore unimportant.

I know there is a way to fight this, I just don’t know what it is. Is there anyone out there who cares enough to help us? To help figure out how we can help ourselves? I’m willing to fight, I just need to know how.

I have also gone through the exact same harassment Angel described regarding the separation of lovers. However, with me, it was not just lovers. I was not allowed to have friends of any kind. Not even other transgender people or homosexuals. If I became too close to anyone, one of us got moved.

I have filed over 100 OPI’s and made them transfer me off of 4 facilities because of this. I ended up dealing with the same warden on 2 of these facilities, and he tortured me. He had all my hair cut off while I was restrained, then paraded me across the facility in front of hundreds of laughing inmates while I was still covered in the hair he’d just had shaved off. He had all my personal property taken and never returned. I lost everything. He had more disciplinary reports falsified against me than I can count. It was the first time in my life I wanted to hurt someone and hoped they died. He really damaged me mentally.

I finally managed to get transferred to a facility so corrupt and dangerous that most of the officials here don’t have the time or the resources to harass me. This unit is so understaffed, that we spend a lot of the time confined to our cells, eating cold sandwiches out of paper sacks, and being deprived of showers. When we are allowed out of our cells, the gang members are fighting and stabbing each other. Some people have even been killed.

And I love it here because it means that I am mostly left alone by the guards. How sad is that? There is someone, somewhere, capable of changing all of this. Where are you?

Danielle, Texas

Dear All LGBTQ Family Members,

Greetings and peace I send you. This is the first time I have written Black & Pink. Yet, after reading only two Newspaper issues, I felt the need to write.

First, I am a proud male-to-female transgender who is married for over 12 years to a bisexual man. We are both HIV positive and advocates of teaching others how to live productive lives. We are both ordained ministers in the Christian tradition, yet we study, practice, and encourage all to follow the path, faith, or tradition they choose to follow. No one has the corner on God, Goddess, etc. We only ask for you to do no harm. We consider ourselves as Interfaith Ministers for our LGBTQ family. Remember, no matter which path you follow, you are loved and accepted. The Creator never turns away anyone!

For those who don’t believe a prison relationship can work, my husband and I beg to differ. For the past 12 years we have been a couple. For 9 of these years we have been in different prisons, thus physically apart. What is our secret? Simple:

- We celebrate a monthly anniversary as a mini-way for reminding us both why we are still in love.
- We set down rules at the very beginning. We have a semi-open marriage, but no secrets. We greatly trust each other.
- We write each other in a weekly set of letters which looks like a journal. Our state Prison System does allow prisoners to write each other in some cases.
- We think of the other. So, I am too busy thinking of my husband’s happiness to worry about being selfish, and vice versa.
- We became friends long before marriage partners. We didn’t have a romantic encounter for the first six months. Not because we couldn’t (at the time we lived in cells next to each other), but to allow our friendship to grow.
- We never allow anyone be it a friend, family, staff, enemy, etc to put wedges between each other.
- Finally, we shared with each other all of our history. The good, the bad, and the ugly. Nothing was hidden, and to this day nothing is ever kept a secret.

I have a Doctorate in Divinity and Interfaith Studies. I am also a trained Peer Educator here in my prison. I conduct education classes on HIV, STI’s, Hep-C, General Health, Stress Reduction, Stress Management, etc. I love helping our LGBTQ family members especially here in prison. I can share my knowledge and answer questions in the Newspaper about these topics.

The final part of my letter is this: never allow anyone to tell you what you are worth. I have been in prison over 18 years, and before I met and fell in love for real, I suffered. I was raped twice, assaulted, used, traded, sold, etc. Custody was no help. But a very dear queen took me under her wings. She said, “We are a minority. The men are large in number, and we are not. Yet, we can have control. We can even be picky!” Remember we are a protected class of people. If you are

sexually violated, file PREA paperwork; if physically assaulted, sue. And know this- you are loved, cared for, wanted, and strong.

I close with this blessing: May you find peace and be uplifted always. Know love and strength. Never give up, for we are winning the war on hate, injustice, and prejudice.

Dear Black & Pink,

The Family has helped me to accept, be proud, and comfortable with my decision to become a transsexual woman, after finally ‘coming out’ and not hiding my lifelong desire to make this wonderful transition for myself! I honestly believe that without all of you it may have taken me many more years to come out or quite possibly never. I love you all and wish everyone the best in our lives now and forever. We shall break our chains of oppression but never our bond of love and support for us all.

In Truth and Solidarity,

Kristi, Pennsylvania

Dear Black & Pink,

Hey everyone, I’m here trying to reach out for some help. I’m trying to be the person that I was born to be. The reason that I am saying this is because when I was born, I was classified as a hermaphrodite (now known as Intersex), as I had both male & female reproductive organs, even though they were not developed. My father (aka sperm donor) wanted a son so he had a doctor surgically seal the female opening and leave the male so that I would develop as a boy instead of the woman I feel I am and should be.

I’m currently in prison for the crime of murder, which I did not do, but my attorney told me to plead guilty and the state would drop their pursuit of the death penalty, which they did, but the prosecutor said in an interview, “I am glad that he plead guilty because no jury would have convicted him and sentenced him to death due to his mental condition.” I have so far been here for 10 years on a life sentence. I am still trying to get my case back into court, but I am having no luck.

If I can get back out to the free world I am planning on getting the surgery, so that I will be the person on the outside that I am on the inside. I’m also fighting to get my Estrogen Hormone Therapy (EHT) while I’m in here so I can continue to transition when I get back to the outside, that is if I can get around the corrupt judicial system that they have here.

Your Sister,

Catherine, South Carolina

CECE MCDONALD TO BE RELEASED

CeCe McDonald, the 24-year-old African-American transwoman who courageously defended herself and friends from a vicious, racist, anti-lesbian-gay-bi-trans-queer attack, will be released from jail in mid-January.

On June 5, 2011, McDonald, her roommate and some friends, all of them Black youth, were walking to the grocery store when a group of white adults outside a Minneapolis bar known as Schooner Tavern began to hurl racist and anti-LGBTQ slurs at them. As McDonald tried to get away with her friends, Molly Flaherty smashed a glass mug against her face and began throwing punches. The youth had no choice but to defend themselves.



CeCe McDonald

Dean Schmitz, who by all accounts had been one of the main instigators of the incident — and specifically targeted McDonald for being trans — was stabbed with scissors and died on his way to the hospital. Schmitz, who had a swastika tattooed on his chest, not only had been affiliated with white supremacists but had also been convicted multiple times for domestic violence and assault.

Despite a strong public campaign to have the charges dropped, McDonald potentially faced decades in prison for murder. On June 4, 2012, as part of a plea agreement, she was sentenced to 41 months for second-degree manslaughter.

An official statement from McDonald and her support committee will be posted before her release. For more details on McDonald’s release, see facebook.com/freecece.mcdonald. *By Imani Henry, published on http://www.workers.org/*

TRANSGENDER WINS OF 2013 YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

1. Trans-Inclusive Anti-Violence Programs In February, Congress passed the first explicitly LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination law at the national level as part of reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The law protects LGBT people from discrimination in programs such as domestic violence shelters and rape crisis centers, and allows federal grants to focus on anti-violence work for LGBT people.

2. Historic 2-1 Senate Vote for Transgender Workplace Protections The first-ever U.S. Senate vote on a transgender-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) was a remarkable triumph. Only a single Senator spoke in opposition to the bill, and 10 Republicans joined 54 Democrats in voting for ENDA. In the coming months, advocates will continue building Republican support in the House and put pressure on Speaker John Boehner to bring the bill up for a vote.

3. Strides for Transgender Students Almost every month has brought new signs of progress in eliminating barriers and protecting opportunities for transgender students.

Continued on Page 7...

Dear B&P Family,

So glad to see the coverage of solitary confinement in US prisons, no doubt sparked by the hunger strikers in California’s prisons. It is shameful that administrators choose to apply force to isolate a problem rather than adhere to restorative justice programs to heal the person. It seems to me that the vast majority of behaviors that prisons use to justify isolation are socially engineered, which means that a social based solution is necessary: the complete opposite of isolation. Violent behavior, impulsive actions, and competition for scarce resources are all social issues that would best be addressed by saturating people with quality mental health treatment, education for literacy, vocational classes, sex education, life skills, physical/nutritional education, and providing ample opportunities for meaningful work and pay, restitution, community engagement, arts and crafts, and family preservation. Increased personal space, privacy and dignity would be essential to eliminating the needs for harmful behavior and incidents of abuse while fostering intimate, healthy relationships.

The Indiana Dept of Corrections has held me in solitary for 5 years now because a male guard aided my escape from prison. He drove me out of the gates to the parking lot where my wife was waiting to ferry me away. The IDOC and police- and media- glommed onto my sexuality as if I had used it as a weapon to seduce an upstanding law enforcement officer into doing my bidding, vilifying me and painting him as a helpless victim! The former officer and my wife are now at home after 3 years in prison and 2 years parole, while I am still in isolation indefinitely, branded as the ultimate manipulator of officers who cannot keep their dicks in their pants. Instead of policing their own employees to discourage sexual misconduct, they continually punish me, despite the cruel and inhuman nature of solitary confinement.

In a model of restorative justice we would never torture human beings by locking them in concrete bathrooms because they might subvert the power of the system by giving good head. Currently, we have patriarchal executive, legislative, and judicial systems based on fundamentalist Judeo-Christian ideas of sin and punishment. A restorative justice system would be rooted in universal compassion and forgiveness. Until then, we’ll never see the abolition of the Prison Industrial Complex and is dehumanizing machinations.

In solidarity,
Sarah Jo, Indiana

OPENLY GAY MEN BEHIND BARS ARE TOLD WE DESERVE WHAT WE GET -- BUT NOBODY DESERVES THIS

Life behind bars can be a terrifying experience for anyone. For a person who is openly gay, it is often pure hell.

I won’t ever forget my first 24 hours in jail. I can block out the faces of the men who sexually assaulted me, but I’m still haunted by what they did. The attack happened in a communal cell that held about 50 other people. I had tried to avoid being noticed at all. I found a quiet corner of the cell and sat down, hoping to become invisible. That didn’t work. Two men approached me, and when I tried to stand up, one of them stood over me and shoved me back down. He said, “You ain’t fighting back, is you sweetness?” I was terrified.

My ordeal took place almost a decade ago, at a facility in my home state of Louisiana. I had been picked up for check fraud. I was a scrawny 23-year-old, and it was my first time in jail. These factors made me vulnerable to abuse, but what really made me a target was that I was openly gay. After that first assault, word about my sexual orientation quickly spread in the jail. I was marked as fair game for more abuse. My attackers made it clear that if I tried to resist, they would kill me.

The staff at the facility could have protected me. They could have recognized that I was at risk, and that I should never have been placed in a crowded cell with men who were predators. Instead, they did nothing. Predictably, things only got worse. On my fourth day in the jail, one of my rapists informed me that he had sold me to another inmate for \$20.

This was, in a word, enslavement. My body no longer belonged to me, but to someone else -- to my “husband,” a rapist who totally controlled my life with the constant threat of violence. I was raped repeatedly. If he had gambling debts, he used me to pay them off. If he wanted sex, he used me for that. The constant abuse and degradation robbed me of my dignity, and, a decade later, I’m still fighting to get it back.

A few years after my release from jail, I got in trouble with the law again. This time, the fraud conviction resulted in an eight-year prison sentence. Just as before, I became a target. When I tried to file a report, an official told me that I deserved it. At the time, I might have even believed him. My self worth was gone, and I spent a lot of time hating myself. There were moments when I wondered if I should have fought back harder. But at the time, I was too petrified to fight, and too embarrassed to ask for help. My life was shattered -- and all because I forged a check.

But there is much more to my story than just hopelessness and despair. In recent months, I’ve taken steps on the path to healing. Last year, Just Detention International helped link me up with groups that provide services to survivors like me. JDI and these advocates also encouraged me to write about my story, which I’ve found helpful and cathartic. I also received twenty holiday cards last year from compassionate people on the outside. Those messages, all of them

from people I didn’t know, gave me a sense of hope and a faith in humanity I hadn’t felt in years.

I have a long way to go before I can feel whole again. Even though I’m now in a facility where I am relatively safe, I often feel a deep anxiety and dread. I have flashbacks and nightmares regularly. It’s also painful for me to think about all the other inmates who have to go through what I did, many of them also LGBT people.

Prisoner rape is a gay rights issue. A recent government survey found that roughly 40 percent of gay former state prisoners were sexually abused by another inmate. That number doesn’t even include gay men who were assaulted by staff, or inmates who were too afraid to report, even anonymously. It can be hard to speak out when your rapist threatens you with a knife -- especially when no one on staff believes you or even cares.

My experience is depressingly common, but the treatment of inmates is a largely hidden problem. I hope that by telling my story, it can open a few eyes to the horrors of sexual abuse in detention. Even better, I hope that it will help end the crisis of prisoner rape, so no one else has a story like mine to tell.

By Rodney Smith Rodney is currently serving an eight-year sentence at a Louisiana prison. He’s committed to ensuring that no one else has to suffer sexual abuse in detention. His last name has been changed to protect him from retaliation. Originally published on <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/>

NOTE: We’ve seen more media attention about the reality of LGBTQ prisoners in the end of 2013 than we have seen in many years. We are hopeful that this attention will lead to more connection with the Black and Pink family. We are also cautious that our struggles for abolition are not taken over by mainstream LGBTQ organizations who will actually expand the prison system.

AILING ATTORNEY LYNNE STEWART RELEASED FROM PRISON

A former civil rights attorney convicted in a terrorism case is back in Brooklyn after being released from prison years earlier than expected because of her continuing health issues. NY1’s Mahsa Saeidi filed the following report.

After years of agony, Lynne Stewart’s family is elated, celebrating not just the new year, but also a homecoming.

The 74-year-old former civil rights attorney experienced her first day back at home in Brooklyn after serving more than 49 months for terrorism-related crimes.

“There’s some big words for it, like euphoric, floating on the edge of the world, and also a strange sense of, am I going to wake up in a minute and this is all a dream,” Stewart said.

“I knew that the alternative was not acceptable,” said Ralph Ponyter, Stewart’s husband. “We either get this day or Lynne in a box.”

Doctors said that Stewart’s breast cancer has spread to other organs. They predict that she may have less than 18 months to live, and so prosecutors and the Federal Bureau of Prisons recommended that she be set free on compassionate grounds. On Tuesday, a judge agreed.

“I fought lions, I fought tigers, and I’m not going to let cancer get me,” Stewart said.

In 2005, Stewart was found guilty of helping her client, convicted terrorist Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman, communicate with followers while he was serving a life sentence for plotting to blow up city landmarks.

Critics say she did not show any remorse for her actions. She didn’t comment on that or her charges, but she did say she was grateful to be out of prison.

“I think I described it someplace as loveless,” she said. “It’s not a place where there’s any great love.”

When Stewart landed in LaGuardia Airport Wednesday, she was surrounded by some of the folks who have been fighting for her release for years.

“We had tremendous support, tremendous support,” Stewart said. “We had over 40,000 people sign the petition.”

“Eighty countries. Every continent except Antarctica. Every state in the United States,” Ponyter said.

Stewart said that she got a firsthand look at some of the issues plaguing the prison system, so in addition to focusing on her health, she wants to fight for reform parts of the criminal justice system.

By Mahsa Saeidi. Originally published on <http://www.ny1.com/>

Rise Again

In my madness, my distress
My instant moments of bliss
I read between the lines

They see the sunlight
I let it shine
To all the world- a disguise
And they think it is the end

May they crumble
May they fall
The lies written on these walls
That will never keep me in

I may be battling with sin
Held down- crucified with guilt
But, the good book says I'll win

Might is abound beneath my skin
Something majestic resides within
And what's amazing will be the
Rise again...

Kevenjames, Texas

Day of Mourning

I mourn for America,
a beautiful land,
dying a slow, choking death
in the chains of the toxic West

I mourn for the Indians,
the original people,
robbed of their birthright
by diseased, psychotic settlers

I mourn for them, too,
the not-so-originals
with minds of mediated fallacy
that say to hell with the rest

I mourn for all those,
blinded by greed,
grabbing and clutching
for what they're told they need

I mourn for the victims,
families and communities,
destroyed by endless wars
for resources and a profit

But Most of All

I mourn for our world
our beautiful blue-green mother,
as she suffers the insufferable
and dies because of us-
her own damned seed.

Rand, Michigan

The sun will rise
The sun will set
But I will never forget
The day we met
Every time
I go by that place
It brings a smile to my face
For I am reminded
Of your elegance and grace
And I want you to know
That to this day
Thoughts of you
Still make my heart race!

George, Washington State

Wake Up!

I am in the belly of the beast
Hearing the cries of its mortal feast
Oh the darkness, the eerie sound of likeness
For we all are the small planktons
Treading through the filth and despair
Breathing the pollution of the Government
air
As lies and denials fill the screens
And streets are haunted by innocent screams
For those who have sworn to protect
Are the first to draw their guns
And in this world gone mad
Mothers and fathers
Kill brothers and daughters
For we are in a cycle of Endolution
Killing the Earth with senseless pollution
There is no future, no evolution
For it's too late
To turn back the destruction
Failure to follow basic instruction
Has caused us to stew in the soup of regret
Leading to a fate
We have already met

Roger, California

Fear of Being a Fool

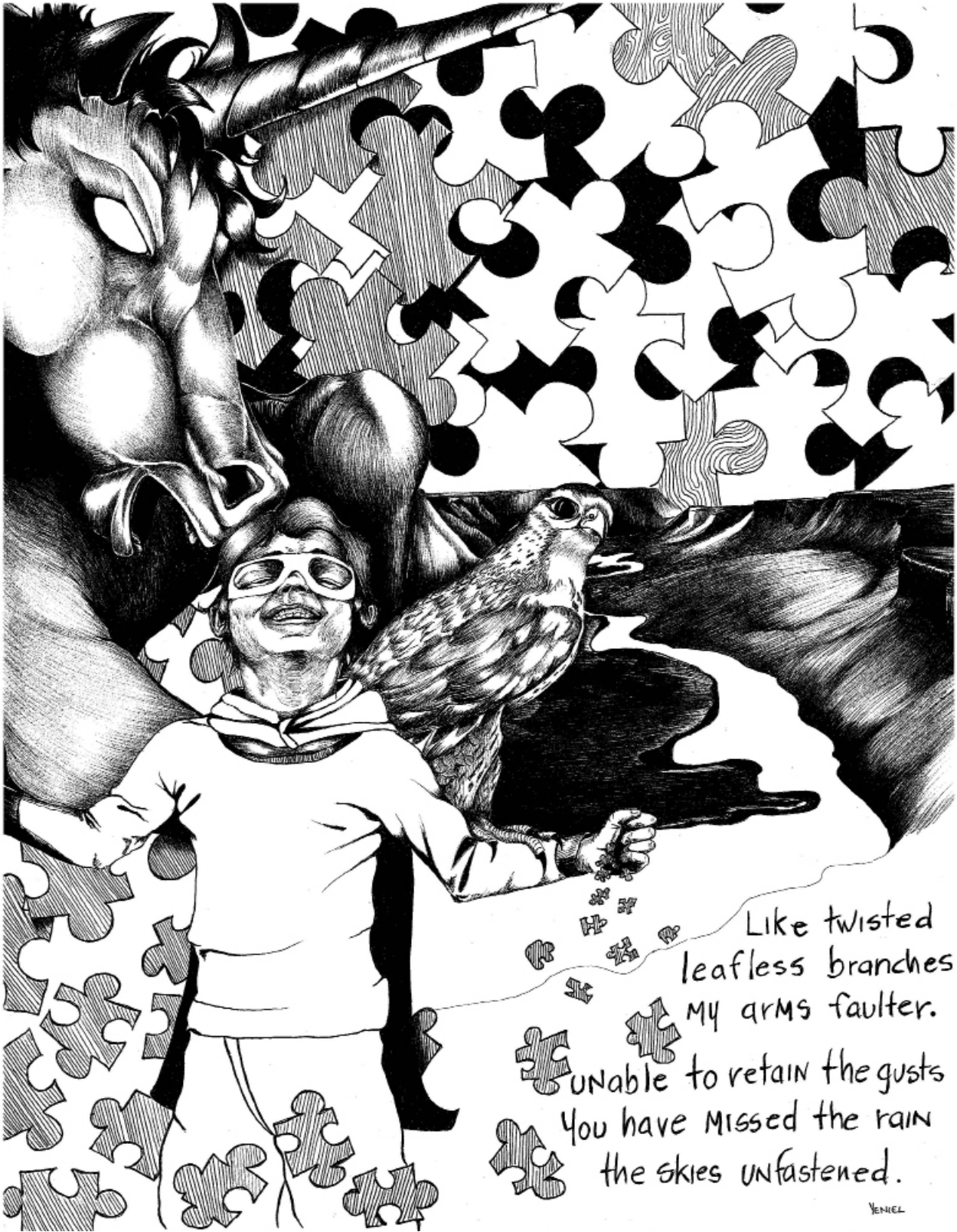
I once proclaimed to fear no man
But I've learned that declaration was untrue
You are honestly my dream
Still I fear being made to look like your fool.

I've lost a few rounds
And I know that you have too
This time we may have it right
Only time will tell if we do.

A lot of this is new to us both
Clearly for different reasons
But I promise to give this my all
Though we both must deal with our past demons.

I always tell you I love you
And that's 100% true
I just hope I won't end up
Being made to look like your fool.

Robert, Texas



Art by Yeniel, Florida

...Continued from Page 4

Page 7

In February, Massachusetts education officials released the strongest statewide rules to date protecting transgender students, following Washington and Connecticut. In June, the Colorado Civil Rights Division ruled that a school committed unlawful discrimination by requiring a transgender girl to use a staff restrooms instead of the girls’ restroom. In July, the U.S. Justice Department entered a landmark Title IX settlement requiring a California school district to treat a transgender boy “the same as other male students in all respects,” and in August California passed legislation making this application of the law explicit.

4. Social Security Eases Gender Change Rules In June, the Social Security Administration finally modernized rules for changing your gender designation in SSA records. The move brings Social Security in line with rules for U.S. passports, immigration documents and many states’ driver’s license rules, and helps eliminate confusion, embarrassment, and increased exposure to discrimination when transgender people interact with SSA staff or other government offices. Records for veterans and military dependents are the last major federal system where transgender people still have to meet burdensome requirements to update gender.

5. States Stand Against Insurance Discrimination In 2013, five states and the District of Columbia began telling insurance companies for the first time that excluding healthcare for transgender people from their plans constitutes unlawful discrimination. At least some plans in California, Colorado, Oregon, Vermont, Connecticut and D.C. are already updating plans to comply, providing individuals with equal coverage of medically necessary care for the first time. While many corporations and universities are eliminating exclusions voluntarily -- and finding there’s no added cost to doing so -- those buying insurance on their own may need to look to their states to take action.

6. State, Local Equality Laws Advance Efforts continued in red, purple, and blue states alike to pass laws to protect LGBT people in jobs, housing, and other settings. Delaware became the 17th state to include gender identity, but less noticed was passage of LGBT protections in Puerto Rico (with four times Delaware’s population). With the passage of these laws, an estimated 4.5 million more people are living in a jurisdiction with an LGBT non-discrimination law on the books. Local laws also continued to advance, expanding protections from San Antonio, TX to Shreveport, LA.

7. A Record Year of Visibility Positive visibility for transgender people in America seems to grow with each passing year. This year, that visibility was led

by a wave of human-interest stories on transgender people and their families like Coy Mathis and Lana Wachowski, and by the critically acclaimed performance of Laverne Cox on the hit show Orange is the New Black. Cox’s character has become a window for non-transgender Americans to begin to understand the plight of transgender people, and the role racism, poverty, and prison have in the lives of many in our community.

8.Name, Birth Certificate Changes Get Easier (CA, OR, D.C.) While half of states now make it relatively easy to update the gender on your driver’s license, efforts are also underway to ease the basic step of legally changing names, and the often even tougher step of updating one’s birth certificate. This year Oregon and the District of Columbia joined at least three other states in guaranteeing that individuals won’t be required to show proof of surgery to update their birth certificates. D.C. also joined the nearly half of states that have eliminated requirements that name changes be published in the newspaper, an expensive and intimidating step for many transgender people. Similar legislation has been proposed in California and Hawaii.

9. Depathologizing Gender Identity In May, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) published the fifth version of its Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, officially renaming “gender identity disorder” as “gender dysphoria” and formally recognizing that it is not a transgender person’s innate identity, but the distress some feel about an identity, body, and social role that don’t line up, that may call for treatment. The conservative APA also issued statements condemning anti-transgender discrimination and specifically calling for insurance coverage of healthcare for transgender people.

10. Hope for Transgender Inmates As calls for scaling back America’s reliance on imprisonment grow from Texas to the White House, major steps are being taken to keep transgender people who are behind bars safe. In Harris County, TX., America’s third-largest jail was the latest to adopt comprehensive policies that include housing inmates based on their gender identity, following standards from the U.S. Justice Department. NCTE will continue this work while also advocating for fewer prisons and less imprisonment.

By Mara Keisling Founding Executive Director, National Center for Transgender Equality Originally published on <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/>

NOTE: Black and Pink does not support the Violence Against Women Act because 70+% of the funding allocated goes to police and prosecutors.

ON THE INSIDE ARTWORK FORM

Black & Pink is facilitating the revival of the art program in a new way, called On the Inside! If you are an artist, here’s how it will work. Create any artwork that you would like (drawings, cards, paintings). Some of the artwork will be accepted for an upcoming exhibit; the artist will be promptly compensated \$50 for all accepted artwork (except \$10 for cards) and postage expenses incurred. Any artwork that isn’t accepted for the exhibit for any reason will be promptly returned to the artist, or other address. If your artwork is accepted for the Exhibition, you assign all right, title and interest in the work to us (in other words you transfer ownership of the art and its copyrights to the Exhibit coordinators) as consideration for participation in the show. The artwork will never be resold, and will likely be donated to an LGBTQ Archive in years to come. **Please do not write your name and number anywhere on the front of the artwork to protect your privacy. We are all excited to see what you create! Please fill out a questions 1 through 6 once, and questions 7 through 10 on separate slip like this for each piece of artwork you submit. Please mail the artwork with the information below on slips to: On the Inside, PO Box 173, 2658 Griffith Park Blvd. , Los Angeles, CA 90039**

- 1)Your preferred name for the exhibit.
- 2)Your gender pronouns (eg. she / he / xe / they).
- 3)How do you identify? (Optional: gender, sexuality, race, age).
- 4)Your legal name, number, and mailing address.
- 5)If my artwork is not accepted for the exhibit:

__ Send it to my address (please list)

__ Send it to another address (please list)

__ Black & Pink can keep and display it
- 6)Preferred method of compensation:

__ Donation into commissary account (Please include deposit slips or instructions):

__ Magazines/books (Details)

__ Other:
- 7)Title of artwork (for display at exhibit).
- 8)Description of artwork (for display at exhibit).
- 9)Anything else you’d like the exhibit curator to know about the artwork or about yourself which can be shared / feel free to write on another page, and please note that the exhibit curator is not able to be a penpal):
- 10) I, _____ (Name), give On the Inside permission for my artwork to be exhibited in person, press, catalogues, internet, etc. Sign: _____ Date: _____

BLACK & PINK INCARCERATED FAMILY FEEDBACK!

-----rip slip here-----

We have a few helpful resources listed on the back page of the Newspaper. Several people have asked for more resources. So we figured we could find out what kind of resources people want most and share some of the resources we find most helpful with each other. Keep in mind, the B&P Newspaper goes to people all over the country, so it will be most helpful to share national organizations and resources, not ones that work only in one state. What types of resources would you like to see listed on our resource page? For example: resources or organizations that offer legal, trans-specific, political organizing, suicide prevention, books, HIV/ AIDS info, anti-prison work, pen pal, or other help/services.What are the names and addresses of national resources you use already and what do they offer?

WP

Black & Pink LGBTQ Pen-Pal Information Form!

If you have not done so in the past 12 months (to reduce mail so we reply faster), please mail this form to Black and Pink –Form, and include a picture & “first letter” written to a potential new pen-pal for us to scan if you wish!

"I understand that anyone who uses the internet can search and find my information and picture. I agree to this information being posted online."

Sign: _____

Date: _____

Preferred Name: _____ Pronoun (she/her/ze): _____

Your Legal Name: _____ #: _____

Address: _____

Please check ☒ the types of pen-pal relationships you are interested in:
(Please note: most “free world” pen-pals that visit our website are *not* interested in romance or sexy letters)

Having a pen-pal friendship	Having a pen-pal romance	Reactive cards from “card parties”?
Writing about social justice	Writing sexy/erotic letters	Yes, send me cards _____ No _____

Please provide this optional information if you want! People can search most of these items on our website:

Age & Birth date	/	/	In Solitary Confinement?	
Race			Does anyone write you now? How many people write?	
Gender			Specific types of pen-pals you are looking for: {Most pen-pals want non-romantic friendships}	
Sexuality				
Faith				
Non-English Language				
Release Date?			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Can you get mail from / write to <i>all</i> other prisoners?	No, I can't! _____ Yes, I can! _____
HIV Status (private)				

Tell us about who you are (for example, your background, hobbies and interests, beliefs, situation, etc!):

If you have a webpage: www. _____

Do we have permission to display a picture of you from a corrections website? _____ Yes _____ No

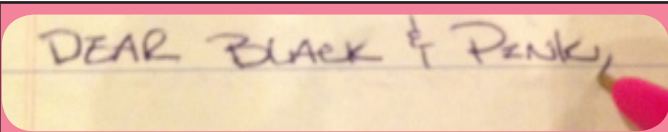
Names and email addresses of any current pen-pals so we can involve them in Black and Pink:

Your address, email and phone upon release (if applicable) so that we can keep you involved in the family:

MAIL TO: Black and Pink– Form, 614 Columbia Rd, Dorchester, MA 02125

ADDRESSES: PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESSES FOR MAIL!

Please Note: You can send multiple requests/topics in one envelope! For privacy concerns, others can’t sign you up for the newsletter, but you can include a newsletter subscription with any other request. There’s no need to send separate requests in more than one envelope.

	Black & Pink - _____ 614 Columbia Rd Dorchester, MA 02125
If you would like to request:	Please write one or more of these topics in the top line of the address:
Newsletter Subscriptions (Start or Stop)	Black & Pink - Newsletter Subscriptions
Newsletter Submissions (Poems, Art & Stories)	Black & Pink - Newsletter Submissions
“Outside” Free Pen-Pal Request (Please note: Pen-Pal Request Form will be in this newsletter quarterly)	Black & Pink - Pen-Pal
Address Change (Will take a little time to update; at this time, we are mostly unable to send back issues.)	Black & Pink - Address Change
Black & Pink Organization Feedback (especially the slip on Page 7)	Black & Pink - Feedback
Request Erotica	Black & Pink - Erotica
Submit to Erotica Zine	Black & Pink - HOT PINK
Religious Support	Black & Pink - Religion
Volunteering (Send thank you cards to donors, etc.)	Black & Pink - Volunteer
Advocacy Requests (include details about situation and thoughts about how calls or letters might help)	Black & Pink - Advocacy

LEGAL: Consider writing to Lambda Legal for support or referrals with legal issues that you are having. “Lambda Legal is a national organization committed to achieving full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender people and those with HIV through impact litigation, education and public policy work.” Lambda Legal, National Office 120 Wall Street, Suite 1500, New York, NY 10005, 212-809-8585

Assistance with legal research for everyone, and preparing for disciplinary and parole hearings *only* for people in Massachusetts.
Hotline (9am-5pm EST): 617-495-3127 By mail: Prison Legal Assistance Project, 6 Everett Street, Suite 5107, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA 02138

Another resource to turn to, if you can afford the subscription (\$34 yearly, payable with new stamps), is Prison Legal News. This resource was co-started by a former gay prisoner and Men Against Sexism organizer, Ed Mead, though now it is run by Paul Wright. You can reach them by writing to: Prison Legal News, P.O. Box 2420, West Brattleboro, VT 05303

SURVIVORS: Just Detention International provides support for prisoners who are survivors of sexual abuse. Write them at the legal address below for a packet. Each packet includes an introductory letter, a list of local resources, fact sheets, publications about recovery from sexual abuse, and a letter of hope from another survivor. Just Detention International, 3325 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 340, Los Angeles, CA 90010